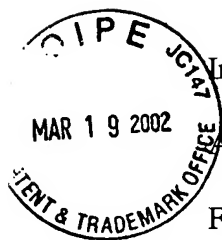


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of: Martin HORNE)

Application No. 10/057,983)

Filed: January 29, 2002)

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)
ALLOCATING THE SUPPLY OF CRITICAL)
MATERIAL COMPONENTS AND)
MANUFACTURING CAPACITY)

Art Unit: 2182

Examiner: Unknown

Commissioner for Patents
Box: APPLICATIONS
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Please replace pages 1 through 88 of the existing application, including specification, claims and abstract with the attached amended version pages 1 through 91 to correct typographical (including margins), grammatical and spelling errors.

A marked-up version is also attached to show the changes made to compare the prior version with the corrected application.

REMARKS

Prior to the examination, Applicants amend the specification, claims and abstract to correct typographical, grammatical and spelling errors. No new matter is being introduced by these amendments which are being made to place the application in better form for examination.

It is respectfully requested that the above amendment be considered when the application is examined on its merits

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the above amendment be